IOWA
CONSERVATIONIST

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CONSERVATION SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS

DISEASE THREATENS EXTERMINATION OF OAKS

By M. A. Ellerhoff
Superintendent of Forestry

A deadly tree disease, the potential destructive power of which could make our worst forest fires seem like backyard brush blazes, is ravaging woodlands throughout Iowa.

Oak wilt, caused by fungus bearing the ominus sounding name *Chalara quercina,* apparently attacks all species of oaks, and some, such as the red oak, die within 30 to 60 days after symptoms are first noted. The stately white oak is more resistant but it, too, succumbs within a few years.

The disease was found locally in the upper Mississippi Valley about 20 years ago, and it has spread each year, slowly gaining momentum. Its march in all directions throughout the upper Mississippi Valley region is causing foresters and botanists great concern. Its range now extends across southern Minnesota, southern Wisconsin, eastward to northern Indiana and south to northern Missouri. The disease has crept into all parts of Iowa.

In 1943, the Iowa State Conservation Commission and the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station inaugurated a program on oak wilt in order to study the disease. It was soon proved that the disease was caused by a fungus. This fungus was found in all parts of infected trees except the acorn.

As yet the exact method by which the fungus spreads under field conditions is not known. Although the fungus readily produces spores in pure culture, they have not been observed in the field. It is known that any fresh wound in the bark will provide a point of entry for the fungus, but it is not known whether the fungus reaches the wound by means of wind-born spores, insects or other means.

Continued on page 22

Teachers trained out-of-doors will gain a feeling for conservation that cannot be secured from books alone. A majority of the training school activities will be out-of-doors in Springbrook State Park and vicinity.

IOWA'S 1949 BEAVER SEASON

By Glen C. Sanderson
Game Biologist

In the past in Iowa, as in many other states, beaver suffered from over-trapping to the point of extinction. In recent years, however, this valuable fur bearer has "come back" under the cloak of complete protection and with the aid of a live-trapping and stocking program to the point where, beginning in 1943, nuisance animals had to be trapped under permit to protect property. By 1949, beaver had become sufficiently abundant to cause the 53rd General Assembly to pass a law authorizing the Conservation Commission to open a trapping season on this fur bearer.

Thus, last fall there was an open season on beaver in Iowa for the first time in many decades. Dates set by the commission for the trapping season were from noon December 1 to midnight December 7, with the following counties open to trapping: Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson, Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Greene, Boone, Webster, Calhoun, Sac, Ida, Woodbury, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Clay, O'Brien, Sioux, Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, and Emmet.

The seven-day trapping season resulted in varying degrees of success. Because of the lack of opportunity, few trappers were experienced in trapping or pelting beaver. This lack of experience resulted in many high hopes and expectations being shattered when the night's efforts produced only sprung traps or a beaver toe instead of the animal itself. The successful trappers soon learned

Continued on page 23

By George W. Worley
Education Assistant

Imagine going to school in one of Iowa's most beautiful state parks. That's what a hundred Iowa teachers will do this summer. Their schoolground will be Springbrook State Park, one of central Iowa's favorite playgrounds—the schoolhouse, God's great outdoors. Sounds good, doesn't it? It *is* good—good for the teachers, good for your children, good for you.

Teachers need to know much more about conservation than they can read in books, or see in pictures. Learning to chop wood takes experience with axe and wood. Learning conservation well enough to teach it requires experience, too—experience with soil, water, plants, animals and minerals. Experience makes clear what words or pictures can never tell.

The school which will provide teachers with needed experiences in conservation is Iowa's first Teacher's Conservation Camp. Regular college credit will be given, but this will be no ordinary college course. Most classes will be held out-of-doors. Why look at pictures on charts or blackboards when real, live, growing examples are only a few feet away?

Three state agencies are the official sponsors of the camp. Iowa State Teachers College, at Cedar Falls, will furnish most of the staff and conduct the camp. The Iowa State Department of Public Instruction will assist with instruction, visual aids, etc. The State Conservation Commission is providing the buildings, utilities, and the park itself.

There will be two three-week sessions of the school in 1950, June 5 to June 24 and June 26 to July 15. Enrollment for each session will be limited to fifty teachers. Iowa elementary teachers are preferred. Tuition will cost teachers $15.00, meals $45.00 for the three-week course. Attendance will be limit-

Continued on page 22

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THE ARMY SOUNDS RETREAT AT CURRENT RIVER

Major General Lewis A. Pick, chief of Army Engineers, bypassed his district engineers at Little Rock and Memphis to make a sudden and unexpected announcement that the Doniphan and Blair Creek dams on Missouri's Current River will not be built as long as he is in charge, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

These dams would have flooded five state parks and one of the finest potential recreational areas in the Ozarks. The general's statement is clear and unequivocal: "The corps of engineers agrees that the Current River in its present state is a unique and valuable resource . . . and that it should be preserved."

Echoes From The Past

(Editor's Note: This is the second of a series relative to wildlife in early Iowa. Additional excerpts from pioneer books, newspapers, and diaries will be printed in future issues.)

BEASTS

(From Galland's *Iowa Emigrant*, published in 1840 and reprinted by the State Historical Society in 1949.)

The buffalo is found in abundance on Red Pipe Stone, Jacques or James, St. Peters and Red rivers; they continually recede before the white population, and are now only occasionally found on the head waters of the river Des Moines and Lower Iowa.

Elk are frequently found much nearer the white settlements, and, occasionally, even in the limits of the present settlements.

Deer are not very abundant, being hunted out by the natives; still, however, there are many hundreds of them killed yearly.

Bears are scarce, but the Indians succeed every winter in obtaining more or less of these animals, as appears from the skins which they bring to the traders.

Raccoons are in great abundance in every district of timbered country, and more especially along the water courses. They constitute the *pork* of the Indian.

Squirrels. The common grey squirrels are found plentifully in the woods, with a few scattering fox squirrels, but no black ones, however, during fourteen years residence and rambling in that country, I have not seen one, neither have I discovered the singular phenomenon of migration and emigration, profusion and scarcity, of these little animals, which are so remarkable in the early settlement of the Ohio valley.

The Panther is rarely seen in the country; their skins are to be found sometimes among the Indians, but I have not seen the animal alive in this country. Wild cats are more frequently seen, but they are not by any means numerous.

The Wolf. There are a few of the large black wolves, and some grey, but the most numerous of this class of animals are the Prairie wolf, which is something above the size of the fox. These animals have not yet proved troublesome to any extent to the farmers; and probably never can, as the country is not adapted to their security, against the search of the hunter—having to burrow in the earth, in certain elevations of the prairie, they are rapidly found and easily destroyed. Many of those animals which have been so industriously destroyed for their skins, as the beaver, the otter, the musk-rat, the mink, etc., are becoming scarce; the beaver may be said to be almost extinct, while but few of the otter remain. It is true that the musk-rat abounds in great plenty in some places, and they are said to be found in the greatest abundance about the sources of the Raccoon river.

Rabbits are found in the settled parts of the country; and rats are continually arriving, with almost every accession to our white population, though it is clear that they are not natives of the country. The oppossum, the pole-cat or skunk, the hedge-hog or porcupine, and the ground-hog, are severally to be found in this country.

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Raccoon were in great abundance in 1840 and constituted the "pork" of the Indian. Jim Sherman Photo.

FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 1950-51

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE Kind of Fish**	Open Season	Daily Catch Limit	Possession Limit*	Minimum Length or Weight	BOUNDARY WATERS Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and inland waters of Lee County
Bullheads, Sheepshead, Red Horse, Gar, Suckers, Gizzard Shad, Moon-eye, Goldeye, Carp, Buffalo, Quill-back, Carpsuckers, Dogfish, Eel, Burbot, Chubs	Continuous	None	None	None	Same as inland waters.
Sand Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	1 lb.	Same as inland waters.
Catfish—except Bullhead	Apr. 15—Feb. 15	8	8	None	Continuous open season with no catch or possession limit.
Trout—all species	May 1—Nov. 30 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily	8	8	None	Same as inland waters.
Minnows	Continuous Closed in all state-owned lakes and trout streams	None	None	None	Same as inland waters.
Frogs—no exceptions	May 12—Nov. 30	12	12	None	Same as inland waters.
Walleye (Yellow Pike-Perch) or Sauger	May 15—Feb. 15	8	8	None	Same as inland waters except season May 1 to Feb. 15.
Crappie	Continuous	15	15	None	Same as inland waters.
Perch	May 15—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
White or Silver Bass	May 15—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Yellow Bass	May 15—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Northern Pike	May 15—Feb. 15	5	5	None	Same as inland waters except season May 1 to Feb. 15.
Smallmouth Bass	June 1—Feb. 15	5	5	10"	Same as inland waters.
Largemouth Bass	June 1—Feb. 15	5	5	10"	Same as inland waters.
Warmouth Bass	June 1—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Sunfish	June 1—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Bluegill	June 1—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Rock Bass	June 1—Feb. 15	15	15	None	Same as inland waters except continuous open season.
Rock Sturgeon—Paddlefish	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed.

*Not to exceed more than thirty (30) fish of all kinds in the aggregate, except that this aggregate possession limit shall not apply to fish named in this table on which there is no daily catch limit. Where waters are located within the confines of state, city, municipal parks, etc., fishing will be permitted only when such areas are open to the public.

**EXCEPTIONS: In Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Iowa and Tuttle lakes, Emmet County; Burt (Swag) Lake, Kossuth County; and Iowa Lake, Osceola County, the following exceptions apply: WALLEYE PIKE, daily catch limit 5, possession limit 5; NORTHERN PIKE, daily catch limit 3, possession limit 3; SUNFISH and BLUEGILL, open season May 15-Feb. 15, daily catch limit 15, possession limit 30; WHITE or SILVER BASS, daily catch limit 15, possession limit 30; CATFISH, open season May 15-Feb. 15; LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS, open season June 1-Nov 30, no minimum length or weight; PERCH, continuous open season, daily catch limit 15, possession limit 30; CRAPPIES, daily catch limit 15, possession limit 30.

No fishing in any designated trout waters except during open season for trout.

Blue and snow geese, numbering some half million individuals, stop on the Missouri River bottoms each spring and grow fat on waste corn left by the mechanical cornpickers. Jim Sherman Photo.

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SPRING GOOSE FLIGHT

Probably one of the most spectacular and certainly one of the noisiest of all bird concentrations is occurring along the Missouri river bottoms in southwest Iowa. This magnificent bird carnival is the annual spring flight of blue and snow geese enroute to their Baffin Island nesting ground with the major stopover for refueling on Iowa's waste corn.

The first of the blue and snow geese begin to arrive in the Forney Lake area early in March, often before snow and ice have completely disappeared. They occasionally retreat south for a few days in the face of late storms, but reappear shortly. The concentration reaches a peak between the 10th and 20th of March. Often 500,000 or more of the birds will be located in a single county.

A few years ago the geese were met by large numbers of illegal hunters. In recent times poaching has been almost completely eliminated and, in place of shotgunners, thousands of camera fans and other bird observers follow the flocks with a tenacity seldom rivaled by the earlier day pot hunters.

A visit to the area is a never to be forgotten experience. Most of the concentrations are within short distances of all-weather roads.

The Musgroves, writing in WATERFOWL IN IOWA, say: "One can observe them congregated in tightly packed groups, watch them as they take off to feed in the morning, and hear the clamor of their voices as they swirl and mill in the air, going to some nearby cornfield to feed on waste grain. Their feeding activities can be seen readily, as they swarm over the ground, literally piling over each other, working through the fields and cleaning up what remains of last year's crop. Temporarily satisfied, small groups return in a short time to the concentration, to be replaced by others, shuttling back and forth between resting and feeding grounds. Long lines and waving formations rise from the fields, small groups and individuals, many with balls of black gumbo and weeds still clinging to their feet.

"High in the sky overhead, at times barely distinguishable, will be seen traveling flocks, irregular V-formations, large V's breaking into smaller ones, all overlapping and stretching for miles. Some of the flights continue northward; others pass the concentration, then as if by some prearranged signal, break formation, swing and sideslip or tumble like falling leaves, losing altitude rapidly, and alight with the resting flock."

The clamoring of the geese may be heard for miles, and when closely approaching a large concentration, the observer's eyes are atuned to a boiler factory. Oftentimes on foggy nights large flocks are attracted to the street lights of the river towns, the din making necessary blackouts to enable the residents to sleep.

The migration through Iowa is usually leisurely, depending, however, on weather conditions. The flight normally lasts from three to four weeks with the last small groups leaving the state on their northward journey by the first of April.

Iowans who wish to visit the

Continued on page 24

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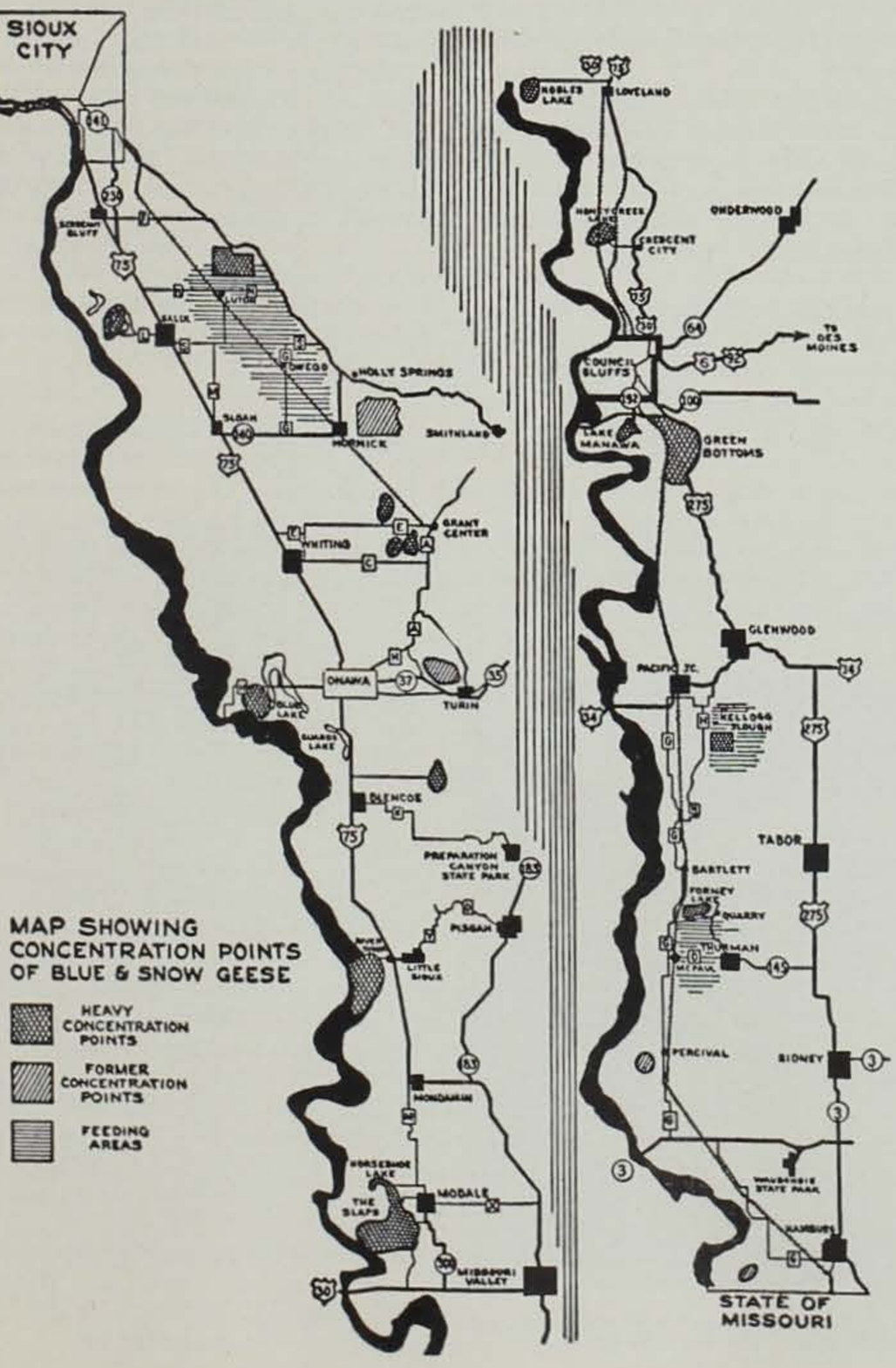

EARLY RESERVATIONS FOR PARK FACILITIES

Iowans planning to use cabins or other facilities in any of the 86 state parks or recreation grounds this year will do well to start early and make reservations if possible. Last season brought an all-time high mark of state park visitors. Wilbur A. Rush, Iowa park superintendent, believes that increased use of parks will continue and facilities will not be equal to the demands.

In 1949, more than three and one-half million visitors made use of the state parks. This was an increase of nearly one million over 1948. For the first time in Iowa park history, parking and other facilities proved inadequate for Sunday and holiday crowds during summer months, with turn-away crowds common at several of the parks. One of the "overflow crowd" parks was Lake Macbride in Johnson County. This park with a large lake area gets a heavy play from Davenport and other eastern Iowa points. In an effort to take care of the heavy pressure, additional picnic and parking areas are being prepared for the 1950 season. Even so, park officials do not believe facilities will be adequate. Hence the warning "get an early start if you wish to go to a state park."—*Davenport Times.*

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Iowans planning to use cabins or other special recreation facilities in the state parks this year will do well to make early reservations where possible. Jim Sherman Photo.

Lake Macbride, in Johnson County, has proved to be one of the most popular of all the man-made lakes for both swimming and fishing. Jim Sherman Photo.

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WILL EXPAND LAKE MACBRIDE

By C. W. Daly

Lake Macbride, the man-made resort pool in the state park of the same name near Iowa City, is to be enlarged from the present 138 acres to a pool area of 935 acres, and the acreage of the state park itself will also be greatly increased.

The increase in the size of the park and lake will come about as the result of the building of the Coralville dam and flood control reservoir.

Col. R. L. Dean, district engineer of the Rock Island district, and his staff of Clock Tower engineers are working on plans for the rebuilding of the Lake Macbride dam in close cooperation with the Iowa State Conservation Commission, which operates the state park system.

Lake Macbride was created by a dam located near the mouth of Mill Creek, about 800 feet upstream from the Iowa River. It was developed by the Iowa State Conservation Commission, with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps in conjunction with the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

The mouth of Mill Creek being just above the site of the Coralville dam, a vast overflow will result from the flood control project, and that is what brings the Rock Island district engineers into the picture.

The present Lake Macbride water surface is maintained at an elevation of 683.3 feet above sea level. It is planned to raise and enlarge the present Mill Creek dam sufficiently to raise the lake level to 712 feet, the elevation of the proposed spillway crest of the dam.

The present depth of water in Lake Macbride averages about 20 feet with probably 25 feet as maximum. This depth will be increased by nearly 30 feet when the enlarged lake is completed. The increase in the lake area from 138 acres to 935 acres will make it the largest artificial state-owned lake in Iowa.

There are 19 existing artificial state-owned lakes in the state and only eight of them, including Lake Macbride, exceed 100 acres in area. Lake Darling, now being built in Washington County, will be the second largest with more than 400 acres of water.

The Coralville reservoir now being built by damming the Iowa river nine miles above Iowa City will contain 1,820 acres and extend upstream past the mouth of Mill Creek approximately to the town of Curtis.

The corps of engineers will acquire necessary land around portions of the present Lake Macbride under the same authority for acquiring other lands in the Coralville project area.

It is proposed to make the land federally acquired available to the state for enlarging the park.

The enlarged lake will be maintained for use by the public as formerly and operated by the Iowa State Conservation Commission. Due to the increased water level it will be necessary to move or relocate the present bathing beach and accompanying buildings to a point east of the present location. A new parking area nearby will be constructed. The present bridge between the east and west sides of the park will be removed and entrance to the park facilities, including the bathing beach, will be from the north via a new road.

Work on the park project is still in the planning stage, and close cooperation is being maintained between the Iowa State Conservation Commission and the corps of engineers in making plans for the enlarged park and facilities. The park will be in operation this coming season as usual.

It is not contemplated that the park will be taken completely out of operation at any time during the reconstruction. The Coralville dam on the Iowa River will not be completed for at least two years, and it is expected the construction work necessary for Lake Macbride State Park will be completed by the time the big flood control reservoir is filled, probably in 1953.

Enlarged Lake Macbride will extend two miles farther up Mill Creek than at present with the new shoreline only one mile from the town of Solon.—*Davenport Democrat.*

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Lake Macbride, now containing 138 acres of water, will be a pool of more than 900 acres as a result of the construction of Coralville Dam. Jim Sherman Photo.

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

The beaver's eyes, located at the top of his head and slightly tilted upward, are kept free of the body's wash during swimming.

A mole can move an object 32 times its own weight.

The whooping crane stands about five feet high.

Wardens Tales

Shop Talk From the Field

Harold Brucklacher, officer in charge of Lyon and Osceola counties, writes:

"The story 'Game Warden Sees Bucks Battle to Death' in the January CONSERVATIONIST was a good story, but it 'ain't the way I heerd it' and, like the report of Mark Twain's death, was slightly exaggerated. I didn't witness the deer battling, as the story said. These are the facts stripped of fiction:

"My wife received a call from a farmer about four o'clock in the afternoon advising that two buck deer had got into a fight, locked antlers, and stumbled or fell into the Big Sioux and drowned themselves. It was quite late when I got in, so the next morning about daylight Ralph Lemke and I went up. Due to the high hills on the Iowa side, we crossed over to the Dakota side and received permission to go through a farmer's field to the river. We had visions of getting some unusual pictures of these deer with their antlers locked, lying in the river, so we were well armed with cameras. We met with disappointment, however, as someone had pulled the deer onto the bank and had done an excellent job of cutting off their heads and necks, apparently for trophies. They were big deer. The two, minus their heads and necks, before skinning and dressing weighed a total of 530 pounds. We haven't located the trophies, but the deer were dressed and given to the county home.

"I write not to spoil the earlier story, but just to keep the record straight."

Dwight Morse, conservation officer in Dickinson County, writes:

"A situation that I am sure most of the fellows run into occasionally occurred up here last fall just prior to the pheasant season. I noticed a car parked on a seldom used grass road in the vicinity of one of my largest pheasant concentrations, and I decided to check and find out what was up. As I bounced down the rough grass road, the suspicious car took off with a flying start. I stopped it with the aid of my siren before it reached the end of the road, however, and when I went over to the car and introduced myself and explained my business, there were two very red-faced occupants, male and female. The only comment either made was by the man, 'This is my wife.' I decided that Cupid was at work here and not Diana, and I went on about my business, quite sure there had been no violation of the conservation laws."

Floyd Morley, conservation officer in charge of Worth and Winnebago counties, writes:

Continued on page 24

Post-season surveys indicate quail populations were not greatly reduced by the 1949 hunting season. Jim Sherman Photo.

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THE 1949 IOWA QUAIL SEASON

By Elden Stempel and Everett Speaker

Each year a representative group of hunters are interviewed by the conservation officers to determine the success of the hunting season. This year over 1400 quail hunters were contacted in the 51 counties opened to shooting. These interviews have been analyzed and some of the highlights are presented here for our readers.

The 1949 bobwhite quail season was opened from November 1 to November 15 in the 38 counties comprising the major quail range, and from November 1 to November 15 in the 13 counties of less dense populations. Surveys last fall indicated a slight decrease in the total number of quail, and the bag and possession limit was reduced from eight to six birds.

The best hunting success was reported from the southeast section of Iowa. More time was required to bag a bird in the central part of the state than elsewhere. Only 30 per cent of the hunters were more than 25 miles from their homes, indicating that most of the hunting was done locally.

The hunters interviewed bagged a total of 2538 birds, or an average of 1.8 birds per hunter. Men using hunting dogs were much more successful than those not using them. The average for those using dogs was 2.03 birds per day as compared to .66 birds for those hunting without dogs. About 75 per cent of the Iowa quail hunters contacted were using dogs last fall.

It took slightly less time for the local hunters to find a covey of quail, but surprisingly enough, the non-local hunters bagged more quail per covey than the residents. There was an average of about 2.5 men in the resident hunting parties, and slightly over 3 men to the party of non-local hunters.

The greatest period of hunting activity took place between November 16 and November 30. During the first two weeks of the season it required more time to locate the coveys than it did in the balance of the season. In the last two weeks, however, it took longer to bag the birds even though they were more easily located. An average of 2.8 birds were bagged from each covey flushed during the season of 1949 as compared to 3 birds in 1948 and 3.3 birds in 1947. Hunters using dogs required an average of only 2 hours to flush a covey of quail, while those not using dogs required 3.82 hours per covey, or nearly twice as long.

From the data at hand it might be said there was a decrease of about 18 per cent in hunting success from the 1948 season. It required the average hunter nearly 16 per cent more time to bag a bird this year than it did last year. Hunting conditions throughout most of the season were not particularly good, and much of the season was warm and dry, which made it hard for dogs to work well.

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Men using dogs were much more successful quail hunters than the dogless hunter, averaging 2.03 birds per day as compared to .66 birds for those hunting with dogs. Jim Sherman Photo.

Post-season surveys indicate the quail population over the range was not greatly reduced, and there seem to be ample birds left in the coverts for the spring breeding season. Winter checks are being made at this time, and a whistle count will be taken during the midsummer to further determine the quail population. Winter checks are made to determine the losses sustained, and are made after the last late winter or early spring snows. Surveys are also made during the breeding season, followed by observations throughout the summer to ascertain the size of broods and relative abundance of the birds. Fall flush counts are made in the covey ranges to determine the number of ranges occupied by coveys and to ascertain the number of birds in the covey. From these and other data the Commission is able to more intelligently manage the crop in such a manner as to insure the perpetuation of the birds and still permit the hunters to harvest the surplus.

One of the few impossible things to do these days is to keep a good fishing hole secret. Jim Sherman Photo.

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WE'RE 'ALL WET' TO HIDE OUR TROUT FISHING

Local fishermen who think they can keep Winneshiek County's trout fishing a secret are all wrong. Their angle is that we shouldn't tell "strangers" about our fishing. We shouldn't advertise it. Keep it all to ourselves.

It's like locking the barn door after the horse has crossed the next county. One of the few impossible things to do these days is to keep a good fishing hole secret. Every summer a few dozen giant trout are taken from our streams and it's impossible to keep it quiet. The fisherman who caught the beauty is so anxious to show him off he can hardly wait to get back to town. From then on the news travels like a prairie fire in a high wind.

We are fortunate in having small creeks and springs of the right temperature to maintain trout. It is for this reason alone that the Conservation Commission keeps planting trout in Winneshiek County. It isn't because we have the best fishermen or because we don't beat our wives. We have no business being selfish with our trout or our streams.

It's probably true there is a limit to a fishing pressure our county can stand. The streams are small, most of them are short, and stocking operations can hardly keep up with the catch. That is why the streams are stocked, though. And that is why fishermen from Des Moines, Sioux City, Wisconsin and Minnesota flock to Decorah on May 1 each year.

Since we can't keep the good news to ourselves, the next best thing for Decorah to do is make the "invaders" welcome. The Junior Chamber has undertaken that project for 1950. They are going to do their best to see that early bird fishermen are taken care of this year. But the Junior Chamber men had to drop their national advertising program like a hot potato when they ran into opposition from local fishermen.

If we want to get riled up about something we should use our energy where it will do some good. The general deterioration of our streams is a problem that should worry every one of us. Plenty of streams that were in ideal shape 20 years ago are now unfit even for sucker fishing. If we want to holler about something, let's holler about this.

The problem is not how to keep fishermen out. It's how to improve our streams to support more fish and more fishermen.—*Decorah Journal.*

The egret, once nearly exterminated by the feather hunters, is becoming common again in late summer and early fall.

Recreation is a form of relief—just as essential as food. — Howard Braucher.

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School . . .

Continued from page 17

ed to one session in order to serve more teachers.

Teachers who attend the camp will have fun as well as work. They may swim, row and fish in the beautiful 27-acre lake. There is a sand beach, bathhouse, concession, and lifeguard.

Students of bird life will see and hear birds to their heart's content. Early morning bird hikes will be part of the training course. In the park are woods, grass, water, marsh, streamside and roadside habitats where teachers may study a wide variety of living things.

Those who prefer cool, quiet, shaded trails and dells to the noise and bright sun of the beach will find their choice at Springbrook. Easy trails are near at hand for the "walker." The "hiker" will find a challenge in more distant undisturbed areas of the mile-square park.

Cool, comfortable sleeping cabins offer rest for tired muscles. Modern facilities, including hot and cold showers, will add to comfort. In the large central dining hall, teachers will find plenty of good food from Iowa farms, prepared by skillful, experienced cooks. Large recreation hall and assembly rooms will be used for study, indoor laboratory work, movies, library, recreation, etc.

Learning should be fun at the conservation camp. Pleasant surroundings are only part of the story. The staff will be trained and experienced in outdoor education and teaching methods. The latest and best visual aids to teaching will be used and demonstrated. There will be a reference library on conservation and nature. Specialists in methods of teaching will point out exactly how teachers may use their new knowledge in their own schools. When desirable, busses will take teachers away from the park to study good and poor use of natural resources.

Mr. G. W. Mouser, Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, will direct the camp. Assisting him will be Dr. Dorothy Miller, also of Cedar Falls. Miss Ivah Green, state supervisor of rural education, and Miss Pauline Sauer, of Cedar Falls, will complete the permanent staff. Specialists in all phases of conservation and education will appear as guest instructors.

All proud Iowans should thrill to this fact: at last we are going into the fields, woods and waters to train teachers of conservation. Teachers trained out-of-doors will never be content to teach conservation from books alone. They will give pupils experience along with advice. Our boys and girls will profit from this. They will be better prepared to use Iowa's resources wisely and well.

"JOE BEAVER" By Ed Nofziger

Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

"Please don't go to any bother—we can't stay for dinner."

There are more known species of insects than there are of all other animals and all plants put together.

Deer often starve to death rather than move far from protection of a woods.

Disease . . .

Continued from page 17

Accidental transmission has been observed when diseased trees touched healthy ones during felling and removal operations. Most of the over-wintering in live trees probably occurs in white and bur oak, since red oak is destroyed generally within 30 to 60 days after the appearance of initial symptoms.

Although studies and control work are being carried on by Iowa and other states, and by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, much more research and field work must be done if the disease is to be checked.

Oak wilt is no longer a local matter and is found in all of the middle western oak timberlands. The 84 species of oaks, numerically and in terms of economics, are America's most important hardwood trees. They comprise from 50 to 90 per cent of the timber stands in the middle western states, and their loss would put an end to thriving lumber industries in many areas.

If the oaks go, building costs will go up, towns will be shadeless, and watersheds will be denuded. Acorns are staples in the diet of most wildlife, and deer, bear, squirrels and wild turkeys could not survive in many places without them.

This matter is not local by any means and is the grave concern of every man, woman and child in the United States, and it calls for prompt and vigorous congressional action. The time to stop the oak wilt is now.

Our oaks must not go the way of the chestnut or the passenger pigeon!

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TIN CAN MEN

Many years ago an Iowa boy ran away from his Iowa home. He was found in the Indian country of the Southwest where he is now acclaimed one of the finest photographers of Indian life of this country. From him, Harold E. Kellogg, comes the description of a San Ildefonse Pueblo dance which has distinct bearing upon our ideas of conservation in state or other park areas.

These Pueblo Indians have a dance known as the Tin Can Man's dance. In it, every brave wears Indian costume except for one article from the White Man's clothing. Thus, one may appear dressed in breech cloth, beads, moccasins, and a top hat. Another may wear breech cloth, moccasins and suspenders, etc.

The Indians enter the plaza making great noise, for that is the manner of the Tin Can Men.

They pantomime the building of a fire, a fire too large for comfort.

Then they pantomime the White Man's picnic, gorging themselves and drinking, emptying boxes, tin cans, bottles and strewing them over the landscape. They also tear up newspapers and leave them scattered about. When they get through with the feast, they leave, making a great deal of noise as they do so. The fire is not put out, either, for again that is the way they have seen the Tin Can Men do.

Are we willing that this should be a picture of ourselves? The care of garbage, refuse and our attitudes around our state parks will help to determine the answer. —*Pike's Peak Nature Notes, by H. C. Brown.*

Oak wilt has killed thousands of valuable trees, with removal of diseased trees a necessity to prevent contamination of healthy individuals. Jim Sherman Photo.

Beaver . . .

Continued from page 17

that a beaver is one of the most difficult of all fur bearers to skin. This difficulty, plus the lack of experience on the part of trappers in handling beaver, caused many pelts to be poorly prepared.

It is important that we have an accurate picture of the size and location of the harvest, especially this first year of an open trapping season in many years. In order to obtain as much information as possible, all fur buyers were asked to fill out a special beaver report form. These short forms asked the buyers to report the size (large, medium or small) and number of beaver pelts bought each day and the county in which the pelts were trapped. These reports were supposed to include only pelts bought from trappers and taken in the counties open to beaver trapping. No doubt the reports contain a few duplications and include a few beaver trapped under permits, but most of these were successfully screened out.

Reports to date are still incomplete, but they are available from 151 (53 per cent) of the approximately 285 fur buyers in the state. Replies have been received from 74 per cent of the buyers in the counties open to beaver trapping; therefore, most of the buyers who purchased beaver pelts have probably returned their reports. In addition to written reports received, 50 fur buyers in 23 Iowa counties, and one Wisconsin buyer who purchased Iowa pelts, were contacted personally for information concerning the beaver harvest.

So far, more than 2,100 pelts have been reported for the entire state, an average of 65 per county open to beaver trapping. The reported harvest averaged 136 per county in the five Missouri River counties in northwestern Iowa, 77 per county in the five northeastern counties, 58 per county in the four southwestern counties bordering on the Missouri River, and 27 per county in the 19 inland counties in northwestern Iowa. The harvest reported per county ranged from 2 for Carroll County to 268 for Woodbury County. The reported harvest for each county is shown in Table II. These figures do not represent the exact harvest in each county, but they are accurate enough to indicate trends.

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Some unusually large beaver were taken during Iowa's open beaver season. This one weighs almost 70 pounds.

Beaver dams in Iowa lakes and streams have become quite common during the past few years. Don L. Berry Photo.

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There are slight variations in the size classifications used by buyers, but one used by many buyers is shown in Table III. To determine the size of a beaver pelt, the measurements are taken after the pelt has been stretched. The size is then given as a single figure, the sum of the width and the length of the pelts.

Although many trappers and buyers reported that most of the animals taken were small, the data do not confirm their reports. Large, medium, and small animals were taken in approximately equal numbers throughout the state.

In many cases, the trappers were sadly disappointed to find that they received only $1.00 to $21.00 for their beaver pelts. The state-wide average for all pelts was approximately $10.50. Table I shows that the 1949 average value is only slightly lower than it was the previous year, but considerably lower than it was two years ago. Twenty-one buyers in northeastern, and 13 fur buyers in western Iowa were

Continued on page 24

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TABLE I

Maximum, minimum and average value received by trappers for beaver pelts of three size classes in northeastern and western Iowa in 1949, and the average value received from 1943-44 to 1949.

Pelt Size		Northeastern	Western
Large (55 inches and larger)	Range:	$10.00-$20.00	$10.00-$21.00
	Average:	15.00	17.50
Medium (45-55 inches)	Range:	3.00- 14.00	5.00- 15.00
	Average:	8.00	9.50
Small (45 inches and smaller)	Range:	1.50- 10.00	1.00- 7.00
	Average:	5.00	3.75

State Average for All Pelts[1]

1943-44[2]	$24.00	1947-48	$32.23
1944-45	22.50	1948-49	13.87
1945-46	35.73	1949	10.50
1946-47	18.24		

[1]As reported by fur buyers.
[2]From 1943-44 to 1948-49 inclusive all beaver were taken under special permits.

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TABLE II

Number of non-permit beaver trappers per county during the 1949 open season.

County	Number		County	Number	
Woodbury	268		Lyon	29	
Monona	133		Greene	27	
Jackson	128		Clayton	22	
Sioux	127		Buena Vista	21	
Plymouth	125		Kossuth	20	
Harrison	108		Palo Alto	20	
Fremont	107		Emmet	17	
Pottawattamie	104		O'Brien	17	
Allamakee	75		Calhoun	16	
Boone	74		Webster	12	(93)
Dubuque	72		Pocahontas	11	
Delaware	53		Ida	8	
Sac	51		Carroll	2	
Cherokee	49		Linn[2]		(34)
Crawford	46		Polk[2]		(17)
Dickinson	46		Page[2]		(12)
Clay	43	(38)	Cass[2]		(7)
Humboldt	42		Clinton[2]		(1)
Mills	37		GRAND TOTAL	2,142	
Osceola	30				

[1]Numbers in parentheses indicate pelts bought by a fur buyer who did not report the county in which the pelts were taken.
[2]County not open to beaver trapping.

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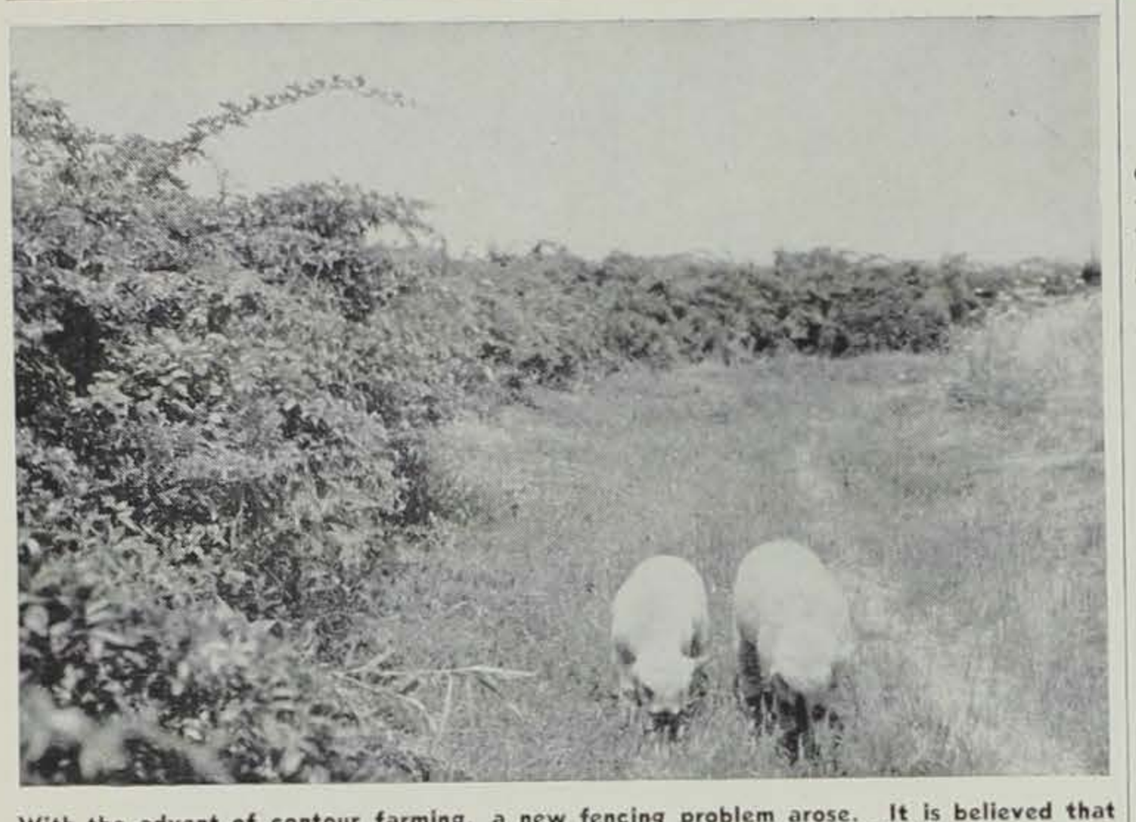
TABLE III

One method used to classify beaver pelts.

Size Class	Sum of width and length in inches
Blanket	65 & over
Extra large	60-65
Large	55-60
Large medium	50-55
Medium	45-50
Small	40-45



With the advent of contour farming, a new fencing problem arose. It is believed that the answer to the problem is multiflora rose. S. C. S. Photo.

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THREE MILES OF MULTIFLORA ROSE FOR CLARKE COUNTY

More than three miles of multiflora rose fence will be planted in Clarke County this spring under agreements already signed with farmers of the county cooperating with the Izaak Walton League and the soil conservation district.

A total of 17,470 rose plants and 2,100 other trees and shrubs are included in the orders from 12 soil district cooperators and four other farmers sent to the State Conservation Commission.

The plants will be sent out from the state nursery as soon as weather is suitable for planting this spring. The planting will be made under the supervision of the soil district and Waltonians.

The multiflora rose is a substitute for the old Osage orange hedge that is rapidly disappearing from the scene in this part of Iowa. The modern bulldozer has made the removal of the old hedge easy, and mile after mile has been pushed out until it is expected that soon the familiar hedge row will be a rarity.

The hedge that served its time in the days before the invention of the barbed wire fence had many disadvantages. It grew to tremendous heights and sapped a wide band of land on either side. A large amount of maintenance was required to keep the hedge dense enough to turn livestock.

With the advent of farming on the contour, a new fencing problem arose. A crooked wire fence is most difficult to keep stretched. The rose is believed to be the answer to the problem. It grows only about eight feet high and does not sap the ground. It makes an extremely dense growth so that weeds cannot flourish under it. It does not spread either by roots or seed. Its blooms in the spring and bright seed hips in the fall make it most attractive. It is said that not even a dog can get through a flourishing hedge of rose.

To the sportsman, especially the quail enthusiast, the passing of the old hedgerow has been a source of regret, for it was the Osage orange that brought the quail to Iowa. Early pioneer records show that there were few quail here when they arrived and that the birds multiplied in direct proportion to the growth and use of hedge. It is now believed that the rose offers an even better wildlife habitat than the old hedge. —*Osceola Sentinel.*

Beaver . . .

Continued from page 23

asked what they were paying for beaver pelts; the results of their answers are shown in Table I. These figures are for an undamaged pelt handled as most trappers handled them.

Thus, we find that the beaver, an animal usually associated with primitive forest conditions, has netted trappers in this intensively farmed state more than $22,000 in 1949. The future of the beaver in Iowa appears to be uncertain. On the one hand, he sometimes causes damage by cutting trees, flooding land, eating crops, and plugging tiles; while on the other hand, his dams help to maintain water levels, especially during years of low rainfall, his fur is valuable to the trapper, his dams and lodges are points of interest, and his mere presence on a stream stirs the pioneer feeling in many people. One thing is certain, so long as he remains in Iowa, the beaver will create much interest and precipitate many discussions.

Spring Goose . . .

Continued from page 19

goose flight may obtain information regarding the flights and the location of concentrations by writing the State Conservation Commission or the city desk of the Council Bluffs Non-pareil, who are supplied with a day-to-day log of the flight's progress.

DUCKS GO HUNGRY WHERE CARP ARE ABUNDANT

Strange as it seems, carp and ducks are competitors. Carp—a vegetable-eating fish—and ducks both eat the same aquatic plants, states the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Where carp exist in large numbers, plant food suitable for ducks and geese may be entirely destroyed.

In certain areas of the West and Middle West, especially on wildlife refuges, large scale carp removal programs have been necessary if quantities of duck and geese food were to be retained. In one marsh in Ohio, all carp and other fish were killed by the fish poison "rotenone." After thousands of pounds of dead fish were cleaned out and removed, the waters were restocked with game fish. Within a short time, wild celery and submergent vegetation suitable for waterfowl began to grow again.

On one wildlife refuge a recently planted 10-acre patch of chufa (*Cyperus esculeutus*), an important waterfowl food plant, was completely destroyed by carp. The carp not only devour entire plants, but by their bottom-feeding habits keep the water too turbid to permit seed germination to re-establish new plant growths. Other plants, besides chufa, which are important duck and geese foods and which suffer from carp depredations are the sago pondweeds—bearing starchy tubers—and wild celery, wild rice, bulrush, spike, rush, etc.

This constant movement of the carp, while grubbing out plants on the bottom, places silt over the eggs of desirable fish, preventing their hatching. When carp adversely affect the growth of plants, they also prevent the growth of numerous forms of small invertebrate life—such as the freshwater shrimp—which are dependent upon the plants for their existence. These little animals are an important link in the food chain for game fish. Their loss is usually simultaneous with the loss of aquatic plants.

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Carp not only eat ducks out of house and home, but upset their own habitat and freeze out during the winter.

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us and we have no right by anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or to deprive them of the benefit which was in our power to bequeath."—*Ruskin*

THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

Ants are thrifty insects. They actually grow mushrooms which they use for food. They raise plant lice, from which they obtain a sweet juice.

A hawk soaring high in the air has such unusual sight that it can detect a mouse moving through the grass far below.

Wardens Tales . . .

Continued from page 20

"A couple of years ago the deputy auditor in Worth County had just paid out bounty on over 200 crow feet to a man who, although he did not live in the county, had made an affidavit that the crows had been killed locally. There was nothing for the auditor to do but pay the bounty. However, he thought it unusual, Worth County being among the very last up here to pay bounties on crows. Within a few minutes another stranger came in with six foxes. He also made out the affidavit and signed it 'Daniel Boone.' That, of course, did the job, and the auditor, who had seen the man get out of his car, called the deputy sheriff to check the registration card. It read 'Daniel Boone, Osage, Iowa.' "